

THE PASSING OF THE OLD YEAR.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST

MAJOR E. H. COOPER

Gets Reminiscent and Writes Interestingly of the Past and Encouragingly of the Future

Never does the present time sink so much out of sight as at the point where the old year and the new seem to touch each other. The past, with its memories sweet and sad, the future, with its hopes and fears and hidden mysteries, are enough to fill every mind and absorb every feeling. Of course, the young are chiefly engrossed with what is in store for them in the future, and the aged love better to dwell in bygone scenes and to live over past experiences, but to the large majority of people both

these themes have at this time an attraction that they do not commonly exert.

It is well that this should be so—in a simply material point of view one day does not differ from another, and the mathematical divisions of the calendar can not invest either the last or first day of the year with any intrinsic sacredness. But just as the mountaineer needs to pause at times in his ascent, not only for rest but to look backward upon the expanded views which his past efforts have opened up to him, and forward with fresh hope to regions beyond which await his approach, so do we all need occasional pauses in our lifelong climb, where we can do the same, and certainly no time can be more fitting for this purpose than when we reach the milestone which tells us that one year is passing away and another entering into view.

We have not too much but too little poetry and sentiment in our busy every day life, and we may safely accept the few breaks that come from time to time as welcome seasons for exercising dormant faculties.

A mere review, however, upon the past and curious wonder as to the future will not avail us much, there are ways of reviewing a past year that are simply enervating and destructive to future welfare. To brood upon its misfortunes, to bewail its errors, to despair of ever retrieving its losses, to indulge in loud lamentings or secret repinings over what can never be altered, is a folly which can only produce evil. Of course, there are sorrows which may pale the cheek, and sad memories which may dim the eye. There are sins to be repented of and mistakes to be regretted; but their only mission to us now they are past, is for the better

guidance of our future. As far as they bring to us lessons of improvements we may welcome their recollections, but beyond this they should be laid aside, perhaps even seriously, away. On the contrary, all that the past year has brought to us of pure happiness, of rich experience, of growing power, of tender affections, should be made prominent. Such memories will not only gladden our hearts and refresh our energies, but when cherished in a spirit of thankfulness, will form germs of perpetually increasing good in the future. The coming year will be happier and better for every joyful memory and every added power we can carry into it.

And how shall we look upon the year which is just upon us? Not as we have said with mere curiosity as to the event it shall bring to us, but rather with earnest thoughtfulness as to what we are to bring into it. It is doubtless a natural desire to look into the future to see what is to befall us there. Few, if any, would be able to withstand the temptation to do so were it possible, yet there is a prophetic power that we do possess to some degree, and might have in a larger measure were it cultivated. We crave the knowledge of what is to come to us, and that we can not by any magic discover, but we think little of what is to come from us, and yet that is the most important, and its general results a fairly good judgment can foretell. In our business, for example, we long to know whether we shall gain or lose, whether fortunate chances shall favor us, or unlooked for disasters overwhelm us. The artist, perhaps, longs to know if his pictures will be honored. The author, if his latest volume will be in demand; the clerk, if his salary will be raised; the

physician, if his practice will increase; the farmer, if his crops will be good, &c., and so on through all the avocations of life. They long in vain, however. No prophetic voice answers these questions, but if instead of this they reflect on the earnestness, fidelity and honest labor they are going to bestow upon their work. If the artist is chiefly interested in the character of his forthcoming picture, and the author in the value of his message to the world, and the physician in the fresh knowledge he hopes to obtain and the in-

creasing skill he hopes to exercise, and so on through all the category of the world's professions, then each may fairly expect success in the best sense in preparation to the measure of these qualities that he puts into his work.

So in our domestic and social life. We can not predict what special events shall come to gladden or grieve us, but we may safely prophesy that if we cultivate home affections we shall reap home happiness, and if we are sympathetic and friendly we shall enjoy the sweets of friendship. In our national

affairs, the wisest statesmen can not predict the particular events that will check the coming year. But we may prophesy with accuracy that all the intelligence, fidelity and ability that is brought to bear upon affairs of government from the weightiest decisions of congress down to the smallest primary meetings will issue forth in the form of national prosperity, while everything which stains the honor or degrades the moral character of our citizens will as surely contribute to national disgrace. As we look backward then at the

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year just leaving us, and forward to that which is approaching, let us avoid both idle lamentations of the past and idle wonder as to the future. Let the thoughts of the one give us a guiding wisdom of experience and of the other the courage, hope and energy to put into the new year those forces and qualities which shall render it a better, happier and more valuable one than any of its predecessors.

MAJOR E. H. COOPER,
Late of 1st Reg. Ills. Light Artillery.
Havi Supl Coal Company. That's all. Phone 292. 1274-81

TAX NOTICE.

State and county taxes for the year 1908 are now due. I will be in Johnson City on Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week, beginning on December 8 and 10, for the purpose of collecting taxes for the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th civil districts. Can be found at the Recorder's office on Tipton street during business hours.
H. C. JACKSON, Trustee.

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To Give People an Opportunity to Build While Lumber and Labor are Cheap

Lots in Southwest Addition

Have been placed on the market at prices fully 50 per cent. lower than they will be sold beginning early in the coming year.

There is a constant demand for houses to rent—good, modern houses, costing from \$2,500 to \$3,500.

We Want Only Good Houses Built!

THE Street Car Line will Soon be in Operation

No house in the Southwest Addition can be further than two squares from the Street Cars.

A large number of good houses are now under contract—costing from \$3,000 to \$25,000.

Now is the time to buy and to build. During 1909 prices of labor and material will go up everywhere, and the price of every lot in the Southwest Addition will be raised 50 per cent.

M. L. FOX, GENERAL AGENT, JOHNSON CITY, ROOMS 4 and 5, UNAKA BANK BUILDING Tennessee